Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A fault message system comprising a ~~number~~ plurality of production units ~~which are arranged spatially distributed and which have means for generating and indicating a fault signal~~, a fault alarm box, a process computer, ~~which is constructed for receiving and for forwarding fault messages~~ and one or more data receiving units for receiving and indicating fault messages, wherein said production units are arranged spatially distributed, wherein said production units have means for generating and indicating a fault signal, wherein each production unit is associated with a transmitting unit for the wireless transmission of fault signals, wherein said fault alarm box is constructed for receiving and forwarding fault messages, wherein two or more of said production units are arranged to form at least one group, wherein each group is associated with a data receiving unit, wherein said data receiving units are connected to the fault alarm box, and wherein the fault alarm box is connected to the process computer. ~~characterized in that a number of production units (1) are arranged to form at least one group (I-III), in that each production unit (1) is associated with a transmitting unit (3) for the wireless transmission of the fault signals, in that each group (I-III) is associated with a data receiving unit (4), in that the data receiving units (4) are connected to the fault alarm box (6) and in that the fault alarm box (6) is connected to a process computer (9).~~

2. (Currently Amended) The fault message system as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the data receiving unit ~~(4)~~ has means ~~(5)~~ for indicating the fault messages.

3. (Currently Amended) The fault message system as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fault alarm box ~~(6)~~ is connected to the process computer ~~(9)~~ via a network connection ~~(8)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The fault message system as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the network connection ~~(8)~~ is a LAN connection.

5. (Currently Amended) The fault message system as claimed in claim 3, ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the process computer ~~(9)~~ is connected to other computers ~~(12)~~ via a second ~~further~~ network ~~(11)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The fault message system as claimed in claim 1, ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the fault alarm box ~~(6)~~ has a data editing unit ~~(6a)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for outputting fault messages from a number of spatially distributed production units forming at least one group of production units ~~which are arranged spatially distributed~~ comprising generating a method fault signal by at least one of said production units, supplying the method fault signal to a data receiving unit, forwarding said

method fault signal to a fault alarm box, supplying a fault message from said fault alarm box to one or more data receiving units for receiving and indicating fault messages, and supplying the fault message from said fault alarm box to a process computer. ~~in which method fault signals generated by the production units are supplied to a fault alarm box and the fault alarm box supplies a fault message to one or more data receiving units for receiving and indicating fault messages, characterized in that the production units form at least one group, in that the fault signals of the production units of a group are supplied to a data receiving unit, in that the data receiving units forward the fault signals of the respective group to the fault alarm box and in that the fault messages are additionally supplied to a process computer from the fault alarm box.~~

8. The method ~~fault message system as~~ claimed in claim 7, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the fault signals of the production units are indicated by the data receiving unit.

9. The method ~~fault message system as~~ claimed in claim 7, wherein ~~and 8, characterized in that~~ the fault signals of the production units are edited in the fault alarm box for conversion into fault messages.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a fault signal is only converted into a fault message in the fault alarm box when it is present for a predetermined period of time.

11. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a fault signal is only converted into a fault message in the fault alarm box when a particular period of time has elapsed since the last presence of the previous fault signal.

12. The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding~~ claims ~~7~~ 7, wherein the fault message is supplied to the process computer at a different time than the fault message is supplied to said data receiving units. ~~to 11, characterized in that the forwarding of the fault message from the fault alarm box to the process computer and to the receiving devices takes place after different periods of time.~~

13. (New) A fault message system comprising:

a plurality of production units, wherein each production unit is associated with a transmitting unit for transmitting fault signals relating to said production unit;

at least one group comprised of a number of said production units; wherein each group is associated with a data receiving unit for receiving fault signals transmitted by the transmitting unit associated with any production unit in said group;

a fault alarm connected to said data receiving unit; and

a process computer connected to said fault alarm.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a receiving device for receiving a fault message from said fault alarm.

15. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the receiving device is a mobile telephone.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said fault message is sent in the form of an SMS.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, comprising a plurality of groups.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein each group is comprised of production units of an individual production line.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said data receiving unit has a means for indicating fault signals.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said means for indicating fault signals is a lamp.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said production units are spatially separated.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said fault signals are transmitted via wireless transmission.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said process computer is adapted to document and evaluate fault messages from said fault alarm.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said process computer is connected to said fault alarm via a network connection.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said fault alarm has a data editing means for determining when to send a fault message from said fault alarm.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said fault alarm is adapted to send said fault message only when a fault signal received by said data receiving unit is present for a first predetermined period of time.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said fault alarm is adapted to send a second fault message only when a second predetermined period of time has passed following the end of the fault signal present for the first predetermined period of time.

28. (New) A method for outputting fault messages comprising:

generating a first fault signal at a production unit of a group of production units;

sending said first fault signal to a data receiving unit associated with said group;

sending said first fault signal from said data receiving unit to a fault alarm;

determining whether to send a fault message from said fault alarm; and

sending a first fault message generated by said fault alarm to at least one data receiving unit or process computer.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 further comprising visually displaying the first fault signal at said data receiving unit.

30. (New) The method of claim 28 further comprising sending said first fault message only when said first fault signal is present in the fault alarm for a predetermined period of time.

31. (New) The method of claim 28 further comprising generating a rising signal while said first fault signal is present in said fault alarm, and sending said first fault message only when said rising signal exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

32. (New) The method of claim 28 further comprising sending a second fault message from said fault alarm in response to a second fault signal received after sending said first fault message, wherein said second fault message is sent only if a predetermined period of time has elapsed following the end of said first fault signal.

33. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said first fault message is sent to a data receiving unit and a process computer at different time intervals.